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COMIC SHOP NEWS™

X-O MANOWAR

There's a New Martial (Artist) in Town...

There's no weapon more formidable than the X-O Manowar armor, right? It's so powerful that it—and its wearer—are pretty much indestructible, right? So there's no reason to even attempt to take on X-O, right?

Apparently there's a guy called Ninjak who didn't get the memo...

In ***X-O Manowar #5,*** writer *Robert Venditti* and artist *Lee Garbett* bring X-O Manowar to earth—and to the attention of the world's most lethal intelligence agent, an operative known as Ninjak. His mission: to retrieve the X-O Manowar armor—at any cost. But what happens when the indestructible soldier faces off against the unstoppable covert operative?

While the idea of two heroes confronting one another seems like a superhero-comics archetype—but *Robert Venditti* is determined to avoid any clichéd elements in his story. "I don't enjoy reading stories where events seem contrived to bring two characters together," Venditti said, "and that *isn't* what we're doing. After Aric crashes into the Coliseum in Rome at the end of issue three, it was just a matter of asking what would happen next. In a shared universe containing both the X-O Manowar armor--the universe's most powerful weapon—and Ninjak—Earth's foremost weapons specialist—it would seem contrived to have the two *not* cross paths. *Violently.*

"Readers will discover there is far more going on in the arc than the typical superhero fight fest, though. There are plots and subplots in issues five through eight that will impact the Valiant Universe far into the future."

The description of Ninjak as "the world's most lethal intelligence agent" makes him seem like a not-so-nice guy; is that the case, or will we learn that there's more to him than an expertise at assassination? "I wouldn't say he isn't nice," Venditti said, "but neither is he someone you'd want to find waiting for you in a dark alley. He's a genius, an expert at espionage, and lethal with just about any weapon. But he also has a code he lives by, and woe to those who try to make him go against it. You absolutely do *not* want to be on his bad side."

Valiant Executive Editor *Warren Simons* explained why Ninjak is debuting in ***X-O Manowar*** rather than his own title. "***Robert Venditti*** and I were talking at C2E2, and he came up with a brilliant idea that tied Ninjak's first appearance directly into X-O Manowar's return to Earth and the culmination of our first arc. The appearance of the Manowar armor in the modern day kicks all of the main players into overdrive. If we ignored the implications of how the world's intelligence communities would react to the sudden revelation of an all-powerful weapon in their midst, we wouldn't be living up to the potential of this great story and the realistic tone of the world we've established thus far.

"Combine that with the fact *that X-O Manowar #5* marks the first new arc for our first title, and that we've got the great *Lee Garbett*—a wonderful artist and storyteller—coming on board, it just made sense to bring Ninjak into the fold."

Valiant Entertainment CEO *Jason Kothari* stressed that the introduction of Ninjak is nevertheless an important part of Valiant's initial launch strategy. "The 'Summer of Valiant' launch has been a spectacular success in introducing Valiant's iconic heroes to a new generation of comic readers and reengaging our amazing existing fanbase," Kothari said. "I could not more proud of the work of our talented team and creators. As we began crafting plans for our second story arcs, ***X-O Manowar #5*** became not only a jumping-on point for new readers, but also a flashpoint to expand the scope and scale of the new Valiant Universe. Robert's plans for Ninjak fit seamlessly into this goal, and readers can expect to see other fan favorite characters appear in new and exciting ways as the stories for ***Harbinger, Bloodshot,*** and ***Archer & Armstrong*** move full steam ahead into 2013."

With *Lee Garbett* coming on board as artist, what does that mean for *Cary Nord,* who illustrated the first four issues of ***X-O Manowar?*** "Cary did an amazing job launching our first title," Simons said. "His work is beautiful, he's an amazing storyteller, and he has a fluent understanding of how to create compelling, dynamic comic book pages. There will be more news about where Cary's headed next, but I promise that X-O and Valiant fans will *not* be disappointed!"

Now that Aric of Dacia—and the X-O Armor—have arrived on Earth, can readers expect to see other meetings with other Valiant heroes in months to come? "Ninjak's arc, which begins in ***X-O Manowar #5,*** culminates with an action-packed ***X-O Manowar #8,*** and after that... *WOW!*" Simons enthused. "I wish I could tell you where we were going, but I promise it's going to be explosive. And it's going to show you that the alien presence known as the Vine will do *anything* to get the X-O Manowar armor back."

"Now that Aric has returned to Earth with the X-O Manowar armor and found himself in our time he is going to come face to face with a number of elements from the modern era," *Dinesh Shamdasani,* Valiant's Chief Creative Officer, added. "Certainly the opportunity is there for him to interact with other heroes, but he'll also have to deal with the dual threats of Vine's hidden agents on Earth and an impending invasion force."

Venditti and Garbett aren't the only creators involved in Ninjak's debut. The visual redesign of the character was done by "the brilliant *Patrick Zircher,*" Simons said. "Patrick's an amazing artist. He's also launching ***Shadowman*** for us in November."

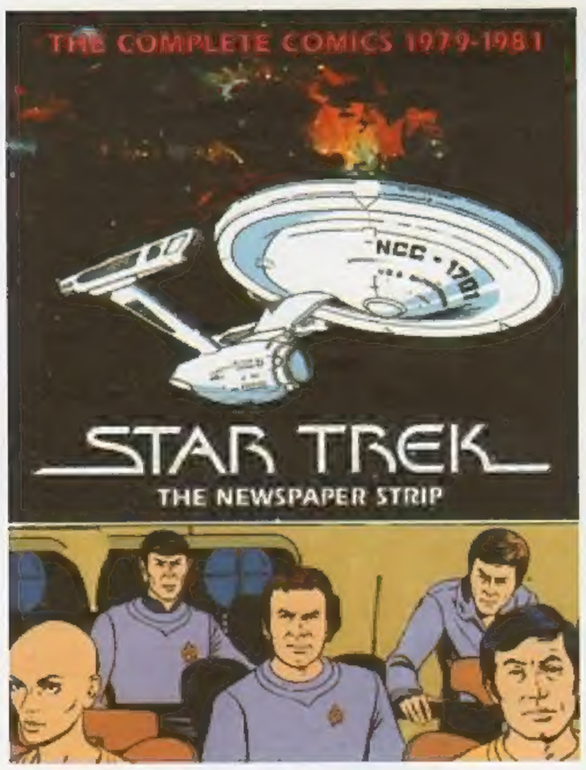
Are there plans for Ninjak to graduate to his own series in 2013? Valiant has already revealed that they have only one more series launch for 2012, so it's clear that Ninjak isn't destined for his own series right away. "***Shadowman*** by *Justin Jordan & Patrick Zircher* is our next title, and it will arrive in stores this November," Shamdasani said. "It's shaping up to be an incredible book! We've got tremendous faith in the work Justin and Patrick are doing and will be working hard to build a lot of excitement around it.

We won't be launching our next new title until the middle of 2013, as we want to give our current books as much time as we can to tell their stories and find as large an audience as possible. But, trust me—the Valiant Universe still has a few explosive secrets waiting in the wings. I'd love to tell you everything that we have up our sleeves for 2013, but I'd be doing our readership a disservice for ruining the surprise! I will say that our aim in 2012 is to build the new Valiant Universe... and in 2013 we may just break it!"

X-O Manowar #5, a $3.99 comic by *Robert Venditti & Lee Garbett* with cover art by *Mico Suayan,* is scheduled for September 12th release. The book will also be offered in a Pullbox Variant Edition featuring cover art by *Philip Tan,* as well as interlocking 1-for-20 and 1-for-50 variant covers by *Patrick Zircher.*

by Cliff Biggers

Courtesy your friendly neighborhood comics outlet!



IDW Boldly Goes Where No Strip Collection Has Gone Before

Star Trek has explored the realms of television, film, novels, audio dramas, and comic books—but few fans realize that Captain Kirk, Mr. Spock, and the crew of the ***USS Enterprise*** also ventured into the realm of comic strips!

From December 1979 through December 1983, the Los Angeles Times Mirror Syndicate carried the ***Star Trek*** comic strip, featuring new adventures of the ***Enterprise*** and its crew set shortly after the events of the first ***Star Trek*** film. After ***The Wrath of Khan*** premiered in theaters in 1982, the strip was updated to reflect the look of the second film, but not the climactic (and deadly) events. The strip featured work by *Sharman DiVono, Ron Harris, Larry Niven, Martin Pasko, Gerry Conway, Ernie Colon, Alfredo Alcala, Paul Chadwick, Dan Spiegle,* and others.

Long unavailable and rarely seen by most ***Trek*** fans, the strip has been an almost-overlooked part of ***Star Trek*** history... but IDW Publishing will remedy that omission this fall with the release of ***Star Trek: The Newspaper Strips Volume One HC,*** the first of a two-volume set reprinting the entire four-year run of the strip.

Star Trek: The Newspaper Strips Volume One will reprint ten complete story arcs by *Thomas Warkentin, Sharman DiVono,* and *Ron Harris.* "Even most die-hard Trek fans have never seen these strips," says series editor *Dean Mullaney.* "It's going to be a real treat!"

The hefty hardcover will reprint both the daily and Sunday strips in an 8.5" x 11" book carefully restored by the expert team at Mullaney's Library of American Comics; Sunday strips will be reproduced in color, as originally published. ***Star Trek*** expert *Rich Handley* provides an in-depth introduction, giving a history of the strip.

Star Trek: The Newspaper Strips Volume One HC, a 300-page hardcover reprinting strips from December 2, 1979 through October 25, 1981, is slated for mid-October release.

Star Bright Is Luna's Delight

Jonathan Luna, the talented creator who made a name for himself in partnership with his brother *Joshua Luna* on such projects as ***Girl*** and ***The Sword,*** is going solo this fall with a moving fantasy series, ***Star Bright and the Looking Glass,*** a tale of beauty, vanity, and friendship.

"After the conclusion of ***The Sword,*** I took a two-year sabbatical, but I was always creating," Luna said. "I played with photography and film, and I learned how to paint with oil, acrylic, and watercolor. I finally decided I wanted to do a fairy-tale picture book."

The end result was ***Star Bright and the Looking Glass,*** which tells the story of a wild young woman who discovers her own beauty when she finds a mirror in her forest home. The awakening of Star Bright's consciousness of her own loveliness also opens her heart to vanity. But when a wicked sorceress steals Star Bright's beauty Star Bright will learn from her woodland animal friends what the true virtues in life are.

"Everything I'm doing with ***Star Bright and the Looking Glass*** is so different from what I'm used to," Luna explained. "It's my first time writing alone—and prose, for that matter. I can't really pinpoint what led me to do a fairy-tale picture book. There's definitely been a certain kind of imagery in my head that I've been dying to put on paper. I've been into pop surrealism for many years, so I wanted to incorporate that kind of art into my new work. I wanted it to be ethereal and a little dark."

Image Comics Publisher Eric Stephenson praised Luna and his new creative direction. "*Jonathan Luna,* along with his brother Joshua, have been doing amazing work at Image Comics for almost a decade now, but I'm still always amazed by their commitment to moving forward as artists and trying new things as storytellers," said Stephenson. "Jonathan's first solo project is wonderfully unique, and one of the most interesting projects he's brought to us yet."

Star Bright and the Looking Glass, a 72-page 9" x 12" hardcover storybook with full-color artwork, is slated for November release from Image Comics.

Don't Worry—Get Happy!

When you hear the name *Grant Morrison,* you probably think of DC Comics. That's not a surprise—for several years now, Morrison's work has appeared almost exclusively under the DC logo or the DC-owned Vertigo imprint. ***Batman, All-Star Superman, Seaguy, Final Crisis, 52, Seaguy, Joe the Barbarian, Batman Incorporated, Action Comics***—DC and/or Vertigo projects all.

But ***Happy!*** is a bold new Image for Morrison, who is joining with acclaimed artist *Darick Robertson* to create a complex, suspenseful series that will appear under the Image imprint—Morrison's first project for Image, in fact. And you can be sure that makes the folks at Image very ***Happy!*** indeed!

Happy! is the story of Nick Sax, a man who most definitely isn't what you'd call a "winner." Sax has been fired from the police force, betrayed by his own employees in his murder-for-hire business; he's constantly drunk and to add insult to injury, he's waging a hopeless battle against the agonies of eczema. Sax seems beyond redemption—but saviors often take strange forms, and, in his case, it's the form of a tiny blue, feathered pony named Happy.

"***Happy!*** is a story I've wanted to write since hit-man Nick Sax and his 'partner' Happy the Horse appeared fully-formed in my head two years ago," Morrison explained. "I wanted to do a classic Christmas story – like ***A Christmas Carol*** or ***It's A Wonderful Life*** – but with all the junkies, killers and pedophiles which make our modern world so colorful!"

Robertson described that tiny blue, feathered pony as "one of the most enjoyable things I've ever designed to draw... I hope readers will have as much fun with this as I've been having."

In the same interview, artist Robertson talked a bit about the mysterious, eponymous Happy the Horse, about whom the two creators are being enticingly elusive. "Happy had a complete transformation from the initial drawing to what he became and what he became is one of the most enjoyable things I've ever designed to draw," said Robertson. "I hope readers will have as much fun with this as I've been having."

"As much as I enjoy making monthly superhero books, there's something very exciting and inspiring about creating a complete, original story from whole cloth, and I'm grateful to Image Comics for seeing the potential of this project and giving it a home," said Morrison. "After a banner year for creativity at the company, Darick and I hope we can round 2012 out on a high note with the most twisted Christmas crime story you'll ever read."

Happy #1, the kickoff issue of a four-part limited series, is slated for September 26th release, with the fourth and final issue planned, appropriately enough, for Christmas week release.

COMIC SHOP NEWS

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BUT YOU'RE ONE OF THOSE HE ROBBED!
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Off We Go...

When the land and sea have become uninhabitable, tenacious humans seek refuge in the only place still safe to them... ***The Wild Blue Yonder.***

The new series by *Mike Raicht, Zach Howard, Austin Harrison, & Nelson Daniel* is set in a post-apocalyptic world of ecological disaster in which humanity has been forced to take to the skies. The resulting SF drama is set in a world of flying machines, and massive makeshift fortresses, all set against the backdrop of a desperate war among the dwindling population left to the scarce resources on land.

"I couldn't be happier to continue my long partnership with *Zach Howard*," said *Chris Ryall*, IDW's Chief Creative Officer. "He illustrated the first comic I ever wrote, and has been producing some stunning work for IDW ever since. Add to that *Mike Raicht's* clever scripting and the amazing colors of *Nelson Daniel* and ***Wild Blue Yonder*** becomes much more than just an innovative concept."

"We've been striving to put ***Wild Blue Yonder*** together for a long time," Raicht said. "It is so amazing that it is finally coming together. To be able to publish it at IDW, the same place that has produced some of my favorite creator owned properties, like ***30 Days of Night, The Cape***, and ***Locke and Key***, is cooler than I can ever truly express."

"I honestly couldn't be happier. It's very gratifying to be drawing my own books full-time while publishing them through my favorite company. Good times!" added Howard.

"We're excited for people to see the story unfold in the series," said Harrison. "Everyone at IDW has been great and supportive. We're thrilled to be working with such a great company."

Wild Blue Yonder #1 is slated for late 2012 release.

Marvel NOW= Marvel WOW!

Marvel has begun releasing more teasers for upcoming relaunches as part of the Marvel NOW! Initiative, and what a lineup of books and creators it is! There's some major talent shuffling going on here, with many writers and artists taking on new characters for the first time. Here are some of the revelations:

- ***Captain America*** by *Rick Remender & John Romita Jr.*
- ***Deadpool*** by *Brian Posehn, Gerry Dugan, & Tony Moore.*
- ***Fantastic Four*** by *Matt Fraction & Mark Bagley,*
- ***FF*** by *Matt Fraction & Mike Allred.*
- ***Incredible Hulk*** by *Mark Waid & Leinil Francis Yu.*
- ***Invincible Iron Man*** by *Kieron Gillen & Greg Land.*
- ***Thor*** by *Jason Aaron & Esad Ribic.*
- ***X-Men Legacy*** by *Simon Spurrier & Tan Eng Huat.*

Marvel is keeping mum on the nature of the changes (other than creative) that will be reflected when these books relaunch, but off-the-record comments indicates that readers should (a) expect some changes as an outgrowth of ***Avengers Vs. X-Men,*** but (b) *not* expect a major reinvention or retooling of any of the series. While the storylines will offer new readers a convenient jumping-on point, this will *not* be a New 52-type reboot of the Marvel Universe. And since it's rolling out over a period of months rather than in a single four-week period, readers will face a smaller weekly investment if they want to try all of the new premiere issues.

Back to Press

It's been an amazing summer for comic book sales, with a record number of sellouts and reprintings to meet the growing demand. The latest list of books returning to press includes a variety of titles from DC, Marvel, Image, Boom, Valiant, and more, including:

- ***Archer & Armstrong #1 2nd Printing*** (JUN128173), featuring a variant cover by *Clayton Henry,* in stores 8/29.

- ***Avenging Spider-Man #9 2nd Printing*** (JUN128074), featuring a variant cover by *Terry Dodson,* in stores 8/22.
- ***Batman and Robin #11 2nd Printing*** (JUN128159), featuring a recolored version of the original cover, in stores 8/29.
- ***Batman and Robin #12 2nd Printing*** (JUN128160), featuring a recolored version of the original cover, in stores 8/29.
- ***Black Kiss II #1 2nd Printing*** (JUN128200), in stores 9/5.
- ***Captain Marvel #1 2nd Printing*** (JUN128073), featuring a variant cover by *Ed McGuinness,* in stores 8/22.
- ***Chew: Secret Agent Poyo 2nd Printing*** (JUN128113), in stores 8/29.
- ***Creator Owned Heroes #1 2nd Printing*** (JUN128117), in stores 8/29.
- ***Extermination #2 2nd Printing*** (JUN128139), in stores 9/12.
- ***First X-Men #1 2nd Printing*** (JUN128166), featuring a variant cover by *Neal Adams,* in stores 9/5.
- ***Hawkeye #1 2nd Printing*** (JUN128167), featuring a variant cover by *David Aja,* in stores 9/5.
- ***Hit-Girl #1 3rd Printing*** (JUN128168), featuring a variant cover by *John Romita Jr,* in stores 9/12.
- ***Hit Girl #2 3rd Printing*** (JUN128169), featuring a variant cover by *John Romita Jr,* in stores 9/12.
- ***Hypernaturals #1 3rd Printing*** (JUN128135), in stores 8/29.
- ***Hypernaturals #2 2nd Printing*** (JUN128146), in stores 9/12.
- ***Invincible #92 2nd Printing*** (JUN128118), in stores 8/29.
- ***Thief of Thieves #7 2nd Printing*** (JUN128195), in stores 9/5.
- ***The Walking Dead #97 2nd Printing*** (JUN128147), featuring a variant cover by *Charlie Adlard* that fits together with the covers for the 2nd printings of #s 98 & 99 to form a triptych image of Negan and his now-infamous baseball bat, in stores 8/22.
- ***The Walking Dead #98 2nd Printing*** (JUN128148), featuring a variant cover by *Charlie Adlard* that fits together with the covers for the 2nd printings of #s 97 & 99 to form a triptych image of Negan and his now-infamous baseball bat, in stores 8/22.
- ***The Walking Dead #99 2nd Printing*** (JUN128149), featuring a variant cover by *Charlie Adlard* that fits together with the covers for the 2nd printings of #s 97 & 98 to form a triptych

image of Negan and his now-infamous baseball bat, in stores 8/22.

- ***The Walking Dead #100 2nd Printing*** (JUN128066), featuring a variant cover by *Charlie Adlard,* in stores 8/22.
- ***Wolverine #311 2nd Printing,*** (JUN128116), featuring a variant sketch cover by *Simone Bianchi,* in stores 8/29.
- ***X-O Manowar #1 4th Printing*** (JUN128136), featuring a variant cover by *Esad Ribic,* in stores 8/29.
- ***X-Treme X-Men #1 2nd Printing*** (JUN128165), featuring a variant cover by *Ralph Tedesco,* in stores 9/5.
- ***Youngblood #71 2nd Printing*** (JUN128119), in stores 8/29.

CSNsider

- Marvel has cancelled the *Jim Starlin—Ron Lim* limited series ***Thanos, Son of Titan,*** with no announcement regarding a possible future resolicitation.
- *Mark Millar & Steve McNiven's* ***Nemesis Returns #1*** has been pushed back from fall release to January 2013 to enable the creators to get further ahead on the book, "ensuring the new series hits a regular schedule," Millar said on Millarworld.
- Due to concerns over content that might be disturbing in light of the Aurora, Colorado shootings, DC has asked that retailers hold the release of ***Batman Incorporated #3*** until August 22nd. Since ***Batman Incorporated #0*** is scheduled for September as a part of Zero Month, DC is pushing back ***Batman Incorporated #4*** until October.

20 THE WALKING DEAD 97
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20 THE WALKING DEAD 99
SOMETHING TO FEAR
SOMETHING TO FEAR
SOMETHING TO FEAR
KIRKMAN • ADLARD • RATHBURN
KIRKMAN • ADLARD • RATHBURN
KIRKMAN • ADLARD • RATHBURN

THANKS! SEE YOU IN THE SENTINEL!
I NOT ONLY GOT ROBBED—BUT A RIVAL PAPER GETS THE PHOTOS!
AND PETER PARKER'LL BE BLAMED FOR THAT, TOO!
STAN LEE
LARRY LIEBER
8-7

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CSN TOP COMICS: SI

ACTION COMICS #0

Grant Morrison & Sholly Fish (W); Ben Oliver & Cafu (A)

(DC JUL120142 $3.99)

What's the Scoop?

Learn hitherto-unrevealed details about Clark Kent's early days in Metropolis in this special standalone issue.

Why Should You Care?

Grant Morrison's ***Action*** is the pacesetter for the entire New 52 DCU, and this storyline fills in some intriguing gaps in Morrison's Superman revamp.

AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #693

Dan Slott (W); Humberto Ramos (A)

(Marvel JUL120556 $3.99)

What's the Scoop?

Spider-Man with a sidekick? Get ready to meet Alpha, the high-profile super-teen who's everything that Peter would have loved to have been during his high school years.

Why Should You Care?

Dan Slott is paving the way for big things in commemoration of Spidey's 50th Anniversary, and the introduction of Alpha is just one of the fascinating twists readers can look forward to in the count-up to ***Amazing Spider-Man #700.***

AVENGERS VS X-MEN #11 (OF 12)

Ed Brubaker (W); Olivier Coipel (A)

(Marvel JUL120528 $3.99)

AVENGERS VS X-MEN #12 (OF 12)

Ed Brubaker (W); Olivier Coipel (A)

(Marvel JUL120535 $4.99)

What's the Scoop?

Heroes fall as the battle reaches a climactic conclusion. But no matter who wins, the Marvel Universe will be changed by this epic battle!

Why Should You Care?

The finale of ***Avengers Vs. X-Men*** leads directly into ***Uncanny Avengers*** and a slew of Marvel relaunches in the next few months, so regardless of which characters are you personal favorites, you're going to want to see how this conflict plays out, since it's going to influence all corners of the Marvelverse.

BATGIRL #0

Gail Simone (W); Ed Benes (A)

(DC JUL120167 $2.99)

What's the Scoop?

How did Barbara Gordon become Batgirl? What inspired her to follow the costumed crime-fighter's life? The answers are revealed in this standalone issue.

Why Should You Care?

Gail Simone dropped readers right into the middle of the action in ***Batgirl #1***—and now we learn just how Barbara got there!

BEFORE WATCHMEN: COMEDIAN #3 (OF 6)

Brian Azzarello (W); J.G. Jones (A)

(DC JUL120110 $3.99)

BEFORE WATCHMEN: NITE OWL #3 (OF 4)

J. Michael Straczynski (W); Andy Kubert & Joe Kubert (A)

(DC JUL120113 $3.99)

BEFORE WATCHMEN: OZYMANDIAS #3 (OF 6)

J. Michael Straczynski (W); Jae Lee (A)

(DC JUL120116 $3.99)

BEFORE WATCHMEN: SILK SPECTRE #3 (OF 4)

Darwyn Cooke (W); Amanda Conner (A)

(DC JUL120107 $3.99)

What's the Scoop?

More details unfold regarding the earliest days of the most powerful being in the Watchmen Universe as we find out how this quartet of heroes became the complex characters we first met in the pages of ***Watchmen.***

Why Should You Care?

Some of comics' most acclaimed creators deliver a complex narrative that is truly *Watchmen*-worthy. Every creator involved in ***Before Watchmen*** has risen to the challenge, producing some of the best work of their careers.

DAMSELS #1

Leah Moore & John Reppion (W); Aneke (A)

(Dynamite JUL120936 $3.99)

What's the Scoop?

You may think you know Cinderella, Sleeping Beauty, The Little Mermaid, and Snow White, but you're about to see a very different side of these—and other—fairy-tale heroines as the Damsels step into the spotlight.

Why Should You Care?

Leah Moore & John Reppion, who proved their skills with their takes on ***Dracula*** and ***Alice in Wonderland,*** offer a fascinating revisionist look a some of our favorite fairy-tales females, proving there's much more to these characters that you'll find in a Disney cartoon!

DOCTOR WHO VOL 3 #1

Andy Diggle (W); Mark Buckingham (A)

(IDW JUL120288 $3.99)

What's the Scoop?

The 11th Doctor is back in action in an all-new series that captures the tone of the upcoming season of the ultra-popular BBC series.

Why Should You Care?

Veteran writer *Andy Diggle,* master of many genres, is the Doctor's writing companion for this new series, while ***Fables*** star *Mark Buckingham* supplies the visuals. With an A-list cast like that, how can any Whovian resist?

FASHION BEAST #1

Alan Moore, Malcolm McLaren, & Antony Johnston (W); Facundo Percio (A)

(Avatar JUL120796 $3.99)

What's the Scoop?

"Beauty and the Beast" is reinvented against the backdrop of a dystopian future dominated by fashion.

Why Should You Care?

It's not the premise, it's the creators: this series is adapted by writer *Antony Johnston* from an unproduced film script by comics legend *Alan Moore* and Sex Pistols star *Malcolm McLaren.* With a team like that, it's be absolutely unfashionable not to check this series out!

FINE & PRIVATE PLACE #1 (OF 5)

Peter S. Beagle & Peter B. Gillis (W); Eduardo Francisco (A)

(IDW JUL120299 $3.99)

What's the Scoop?

Can an ex-pharmacist camped out in a New York cemetery explain the secrets of life and death? Can the talking raven who steals sandwiches for him? And will the ghosts listen?

Why Should You Care?

Peter Gillis joins with acclaimed author *Peter S. Beagle* to bring Beagle's most famous fantasy novel to comics.

GHOST #0

Kelly Sue DeConnick (W); Phil Noto (A)

(Dark Horse JUL120023 $2.99)

What's the Scoop?

A former journalist in search of a career never becomes linked to the specter of a beautiful woman in this reinvention of one of Dark Horse's most popular costumed heroes.

Why Should You Care?

Fan-favorite writer *Kelly Sue DeConnick* offers a spirited revamp of Ghost—and she's joined by artist *par excellence Phil Noto,* whose stylish visuals make this book as much fun to look at as it is to read!

GREEN LANTERN #0

Geoff Johns (W); Doug Mahnke & Christian Alamy (A)

(DC JUL120173 $2.99)

What's the Scoop?

Meet Earth's new Green Lantern Baz in this special origin issue.

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EPTEMBER

Why Should You Care?

Well, he's a new Green Lantern... *and* he's taking a central role in the upcoming "Rise of the Third Army" crossover event... *and* he's a prominent player in ***The Trinity War,*** if that little preview in this year's FCBD book is any indication!

GUARDING THE GLOBE #1

Phil Hester (W); Todd Nauck & John Rausch (A)

(Image JUL120383 $2.99)

What's the Scoop?

Image's Earth-protecting superteam is back in action in their very own ongoing series.

Why Should You Care?

Megaselling writer *Robert Kirkman* co-creates the story concept for this series, while *Phil Hester* handles the writing honors and *Todd Nauck* supplies the visuals. And if the creative team isn't enough to intrigue, you, then maybe the superhero team will pique your interest: *Robert Kirkman's* Invincible, along with Brit, Outrun, Robot, Yeti, Kaboomerang, and a few surprise guest-stars!

HAPPY #1 (OF 4)

Grant Morrison (W); Darick Robertson (A)

(Image JUL120382 $2.99)

What's the Scoop?

The life of a corrupt ex-cop turned hitman is thrown into turmoil when a hit goes wrong and he finds both the cops and the mob on his tail... but how does it all to relate to a monstrous child killer in a Santa suit and a tiny blue horse called Happy?...

Why Should You Care?

If it starts off sounding normal and then takes a twist into the realm of the Bizarre, that's par for the course when you see that brilliant storyteller *Grant Morrison* is the man behind this complex limited series. And he's joined by ***Transmet*** and ***Boys*** illustrator *Darick Robertson,* making this doubly desirable!

JUDAS COIN HC

Walter Simonson (W/A)

(DC MAY120270 $22.99)

What's the Scoop?

One of the silver coins paid to Judas for his betrayal of Jesus creates turmoil throughout history in these interconnected tales starring the Golden Gladiator, the Viking Prince, Captain Fear, Bat Lash, Batman, and Manhunter 2070.

Why Should You Care?

Comics superstar *Walter Simonson* is both writer and artist of this thematically interconnected graphic novel that spans DC history from 73AD to the world of 2070.

JUSTICE LEAGUE #0

Geoff Johns (W); Gary Frank (A)

(DC JUL120123 $3.99)

What's the Scoop?

Billy Batson gets his moment in the spotlight in this full-length exploration of the origin of Shazam.

Why Should You Care?

Geoff Johns & Gary Frank, the dynamic duo responsible for this year's best-selling original graphic novel ***Batman: Earth One,*** reinvent one of comics' oldest heroes in this book-length tale that grows out of their ***Justice League*** backup feature.

PETER CANNON: THUNDERBOLT #1

Steve Darnall & Alex Ross (W); Jonathan Lau (A)

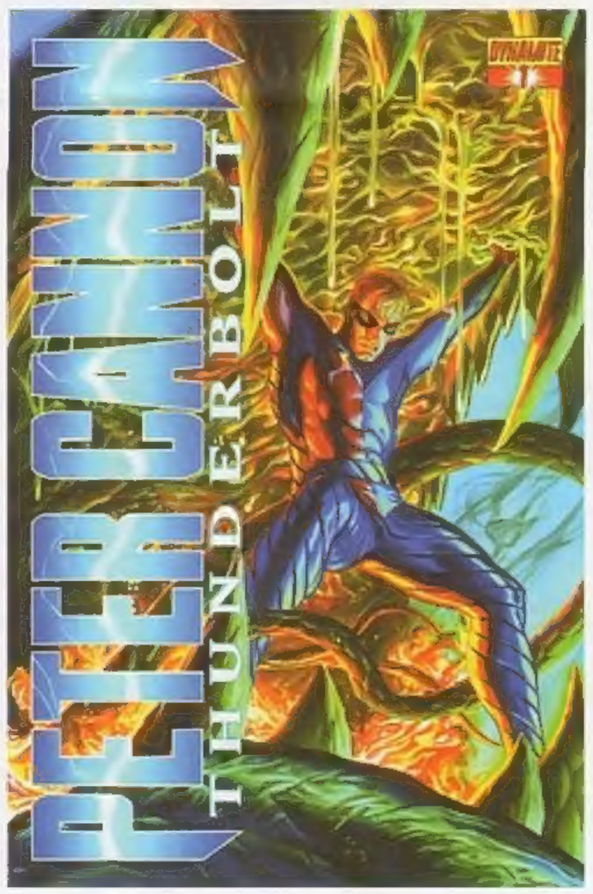
(Dynamite JUL120931 $3.99)

What's the Scoop?

The world's most perfect human being is also the man who saved the world from destruction. However, the global peace he created is based on an illusion, and his enemies are intent on reversing his accomplishments, no matter what the cost.

Why Should You Care?

Steve Darnall & Alex Ross relaunch *Pete Morisi's* Charlton hero—the same hero who inspired ***Watchmen's*** Ozymandias—in this bold new series produced under license from Morisi's estate... and the first issue even includes an unpublished origin of Thunderbolt by Morisi himself!



PHANTOM STRANGER #0

Dan DiDio (W); Brent Anderson (A)

(DC JUL120120 $2.99)

What's the Scoop?

Learn what happened to this enigmatic member of DC's Trinity after the events of the Free Comic Book Day Special... and find out how he is responsible for the creation of the Spectre!

Why Should You Care?

Dan DiDio & Brent Anderson continue the reinvention of the Phantom Stranger—a reinvention that propels this former B-list hero to the top of DC's mystical pantheon!

ROBYN HOOD #1

Joe Brusha (W)

(Zenescope JUL121310 $2.99)

What's the Scoop?

The classic tale of the heroic archer is reinvented in this fantasy series that stars a female Robyn, a human girl who finds herself transported to a fantasy land, where she is the people's only hope for salvation.

Why Should You Care?

In the tradition of ***Neverland*** and ***The Jungle Book,*** Zenescope offers a high-energy gender-switching tale of a heroic archer fighting against oppressive authority.

STEED AND MRS. PEEL ONGOING #1

Mark Waid & Caleb Monroe (W); Steve Bryant (A)

(Boom JUL120865 $3.99)

What's the Scoop?

Steed and Peel discover that the Hellfire Club have infiltrated all aspects of British society—and that means that they can trust no one except one another! Steed and Peel, you're needed!...

Why Should You Care?

The stars of one of British television's most beloved adventure-espionage series return—and their reactivation is overseen by none other than Eisner-Award-winning writer *Mark Waid!*

SWORD OF SORCERY #0

Christy Marx & Antony Bedard (W); Aaron Lopresti & Jesus Saiz (A)

(DC JUL120121 $3.99)

What's the Scoop?

A young girl learns that her strange life with her mother is all a cover for her true identity: she's the lost princess of the Gemworld, hunted by very powerful enemies!

Why Should You Care?

Once relegated to a remote corner of the DCU, *Christy Marx & Aaron Lopresti* place Amethyst firmly in the middle of the New 52 DCU with this new fantasy series. And if that's not enough to lure you in, *Tony Bedard* is also serving up a heaping helping of post-apocalyptic adventure in the Beowulf backup feature.

TALON #0

Scott Snyder & James Tynion IV (W); Guillem March (A)

(DC JUL120119 $2.99)

What's the Scoop?

Meet Calvin Rose, the only Talon ever to escape the clutches of the Court of Owls. He's about to discover, however, that the Owls aren't willing to let bygones be bygones...

Why Should You Care?

The New 52's first major Batman crossover storyline spawns this new addition to DC's Bat-family as ***Talon*** launches as an ongoing series courtesy of *Scott Snyder, James Tynion IV, & Guillem March.*

TEAM 7 #0

Justin Jordan (W); Jesus Merino (A)

(DC JUL120122 $2.99)

What's the Scoop?

In the early days of the New 52, the arrival of a powerful new Superman inspires the creation of Team 7, a group of humans (Dinah Lance, Amanda Waller, Steve Trevor, John Lynch, Alex Fairchild, Cole Cash, & Slade Wilson—charged with defending the DCU against the new era of superbeings.

Why Should You Care?

Justin Jordan & Jesus Merino offer intriguing looks at the early days of the New 52 Universe... and along the way, they reveal aspects of this DCU that reader never suspected!

TOWER CHRONICLES GN VOL 1 (OF 4): GEISTHAWK

Matt Wagner (W); Simon Bisley (A)

(Legendary JUL121137 $7.99)

What's the Scoop?

Meet John Tower, supernatural bounty hunter is charged with tracking down the demons, devils, poltergeists, and other undead menaces that threaten the modern world.

THIS PHOTO OF CLOWN-9 MAKING A FOOL OF YOU WILL TURN YOU INTO A LAUGHINGSTOCK!
IF THAT'S TRUE, MR. JAMESON—
STAN LEE
LARRY LIEBER
8-9

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Why Should You Care?

A series written by *Matt Wagner*, illustrated by *Simon Bisley*, with first issue cover art by *Jim Lee*... What more credentials does one comic need?

X-O MANOWAR #5

Robert Venditti (W); Lee Garbett (A)

(Valiant JUL121254 $3.99)

What's the Scoop?

The X-O Manowar armor has fallen to Earth... and that leads to the involvement of Ninjak, the world's most lethal intelligence agent, who has marked Aric of Dacia for death.

Why Should You Care?

The Valiant Universe may be holding steady at four titles for now, but that doesn't mean that they're stopping with four heroes! Could a Ninjak series be in the cards somewhere down the line? Could be!...

Check 'Em Out: Comics You *Should* Be Reading!

CARTER FAMILY: DON'T FORGET THIS SONG HC

(Abrams JUL120698 $24.95)

Frank Young & David Lasky tell the story of country music stars the Carter Family—not only the story of their musical success, but the story of their personal struggles along the way.

FINDING GOSSAMYR #2

(Third World JUL121223 $3.99)

David Rodriguez & Sarah Ellerton follow Jenna and her brother Denny as they explore the wondrous land of Gossamyr in the second issue of this fascinating series. Few characters are as fascinating and unforgettable as young Denny, the math savant who makes everything possible in this grand adventure.

FAIREST #7

(Vertigo/DC JUL120248 $2.99)

Beauty and Beast star in their own mid-century detective story set in the smoky clubs and dive bars of 1940s Los Angeles as artist *Shawn McManus* joins writer *Bill Willingham* for a memorable standalone issue.

NORMANDY GRAPHIC ADAPTATION: D-DAY TP

(Zenith JUN121365 $19.99)

Wayne Vansant, one of comics' most underrated war artists, tells the story of D-Day in this original graphic novel. Vansant, whose work on Marvel's *The 'Nam* first established his illustrative credentials, is back with his second graphic novel of 2012, following July's ***The Hammer and the Anvil***—and it's great to have him back!

SMALLVILLE SEASON 11 #5

(DC JUL120205 $3.99)

Batman, who never was allowed to appear on the television show due to contractual complications, makes his ***Smallville*** premiere in this issue. Earth 2, references to a coming Crisis, and now Batman... *Bryan Q. Miller* is taking this series in more unexpected directions with every issue!

WOMANTHOLOGY: SPACE #1

(IDW JUL120305 $3.99)

Last spring's ***Womanthology*** original hardcover anthology is the inspiration for this five-issue miniseries. Each issue features three 6-page stories, plus pinups, how-tos, and more, all written and illustrated by talented women.

Collected Cool: September's Best Reprint Editions

ABSOLUTE GREEN LANTERN: SINESTRO CORPS WAR HC

(DC FEB120252 $99.99)

This oversized, slipcased deluxe edition hardcover collects ***Green Lantern #s 21-25, Green Lantern Corps #s 14-19,*** and ***Green Lantern: Sinestro Corps Special #1,*** featuring the work of *Geoff Johns, Ethan Van Sciver, Peter Tomasi, Ivan Reis, Dave Gibbons,* and others.

HARVEY HORRORS COLLECTED WORKS: BLACK CAT MYSTERY HC VOL 1

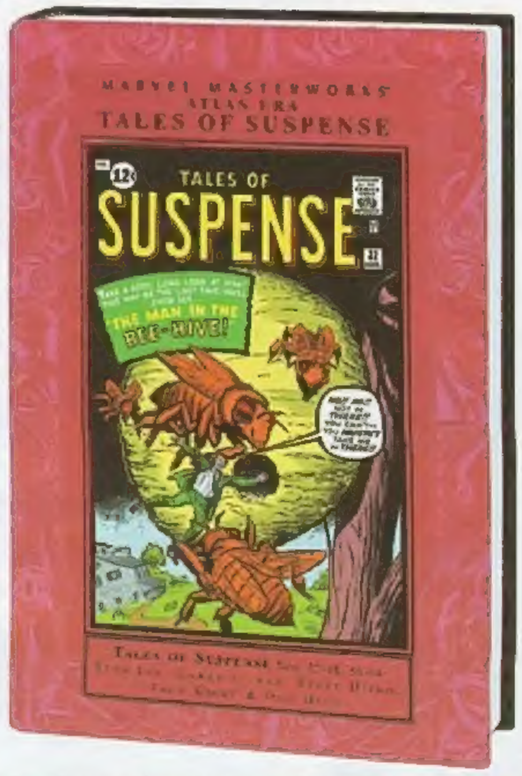
(PS Artbooks JUN121242 $47.99)

This high-quality limited edition hardcover collects the hard-to-find ***Black Cat Mystery #s 30-35*** from 1951-52, featuring the work of *Lee Elias, Bob Powell, Joe Certa, Manny Stallman,* and others.

JOE KUBERT'S TARZAN OF THE APES ARTIST'S EDITION HC

(IDW JUN120398 $150.00)

This deluxe oversized edition, reproduced in the same size as the original art, spotlights *Joe Kubert's* early 1970s work on DC's ***Tarzan***. Every full-sized page is scanned and reproduced in full color to accurately reproduce the underlying pencils, corrections, margin notes, and more—so this is as close as you'll get to owning the art!



MARVEL MASTERWORKS ATLAS ERA TALES OF SUSPENSE HC VOL 4

(Marvel APR120688 $74.99)

With the success of ***Fantastic Four,*** Marvel began to move away from SF/fantasy books to superheroes. This Masterworks reprints the last of the non-superhero material from ***Tales of Suspense #s 32-38*** along with the non-Iron Man tales from #s 39-48 & 50-54. *Jack Kirby, Stan Lee, Steve Ditko, Don Heck, Dick Ayers*—the core Marvel bullpen is present and accounted for in this volume chronicling a transitional era in Marvel history.

CAN'T ENJOY YOUR COMPANY ANY LONGER, JAMESON!
GOTTA GO FIND CLOWN-9!
YOU WON'T— 'CAUSE YOU'RE A LOSER!
SCORE ONE FOR CLOWN-9!
HE MADE A FOOL OUT OF ME TONIGHT— AND GOT AWAY WITH A REAL HAUL!
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BUT IF YOU DO CATCH HIM—
THAT GOLD WATCH IN HIS LOOT BAG IS MINE!
NOW THAT I'VE HUMILIATED THAT ARACHNID AIRHEAD—
NEXT TIME—I'LL POLISH HIM OFF FOR GOOD!
STAN LEE LARRY LIEBER 8-10
STAN LEE LARRY LIEBER 8-11
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Follow *Spider-Man* every week in *Comic Shop News*!

NEW AVENGERS OMNIBUS HC VOL 1

(Marvel APR120686 $125.00)

Brian Bendis fans will have to have this hefty hardcover collecting ***New Avengers #s 1-31*** and much more

PRINCE VALIANT HC VOL 6: 1947-1948

(Fantagraphics JUL121070 $35.00)

Fantagraphics' comprehensive reprinting of Hal Foster's complete ***Prince Valiant*** continues with this collection of the acclaimed artist's best years on the strip.

SGT ROCK ARCHIVES HC VOL 4

(DC FEB120264 $59.99)

Nobody mastered the human interest war drama like *Robert Kanigher & Joe Kubert*, as this collection of tales from ***Our Army at War #s 126-139*** so aptly demonstrates.

SHOWCASE PRESENTS AMETHYST TP VOL 1

(DC JUN120248 $19.99)

Amethyst returns in this month's ***Sword and Sorcery #0***—so what better time for an affordable anthology reprinting ***Amethyst, Princess of Gemworld #s 1-12, Amethyst #s 1-11***, and much more?

STAND OMNIBUS HC SLIPCASED EDITION

(Marvel APR120687 $150.00)

This handsome two-volume slipcased hardcover collection includes the first six ***Stand*** adaptation miniseries, along with oodles of extras.

SUPERMAN CHRONICLES TP VOL 10

(DC JUN120254 $14.99)

DC's affordable reprinting of Superman's adventures in chronological order continues with this collection of Superman tales from ***Superman #s 18-19, Action #s 53-55***, and ***World's Finest #7***.

FYI: Must-Have Additions to Your Reference Library

MATT BAKER: ART OF GLAMOUR HC

(TwoMorrows JUN121310 $39.95)

Jim Amash presents a comprehensive look at the career of one of comics' earliest and most respected African-American comic book artists.

TERRY MOORE'S HOW TO DRAW #5: COMICS

(Abstract JUL120702 $4.99)

Strangers in Paradise, Echo, and ***Rachel Rising*** creator *Terry Moore* shares his insights on the craft of making comics, from choosing the right paper to using Photoshop and much more.

WOODWORK: WALLACE WOOD 1927-1981 HC

(IDW JUL120375 $59.99)

The extraordinary, influential career of one of comics' most beloved artists is spotlighted in the American edition of a museum catalogue that accompanied a Wood career retrospective—the largest exhibit ever devoted to his amazing illustrator.

Hot Commodities: September's Hottest Merchandising & Collectibles

BATMAN 1/4 SCALE MUSEUM QUALITY STATUE VERSION 2

(DC Collectibles JUN120308 $324.95)

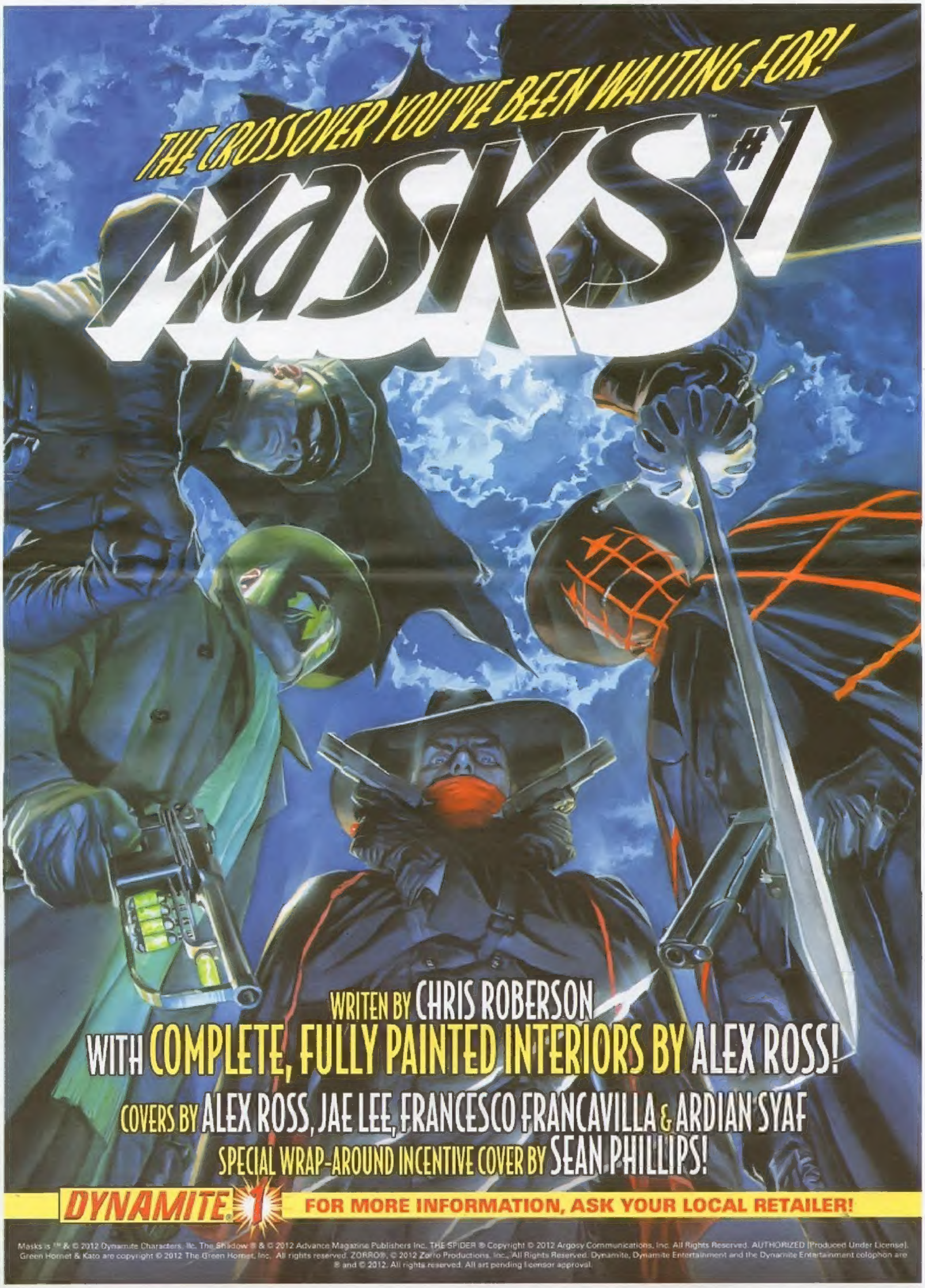
The revamped edition of *Jon Matthews'* mixed-media Batman sculpture depicts the Dark Knight's current look in a striking 18.75" statue.

SPIDER-MAN BLACK COSTUME MUSEUM POSE STATUE

(Bowen JUN121913 $225.00)

The Kucharek Brothers do the sculpting honors on the newest Spidey statue, depicting the web-spinning hero in the black costume that he wore in those happy days before he learned the truth about the alien symbiote!

If you enjoy reading CSN, don't thank us, thank your retailer. They pay for the copies of CSN they distribute each week, because they know that well-informed readers are better customers and nobody keeps fans up on the latest releases better than Comic Shop News.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—THE ONION AV CLUB

"GLORIOUSLY RENDERED AT THE PENCIL OF IVAN REIS."

—AIN'T IT COOL NEWS

"ACTUALLY, THIS MIGHT BE [GEOFF JOHNS'] MOST IMPRESSIVE FEAT TO DATE."

—USA TODAY

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DC COMICS™

THE NEW 52!